Access versus Power Apps

Microsoft announcements from mid November

Common Data Service (CDS) is now Dataverse

General availability of Power Apps within Teams - see https://powerapps.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/reshape-the-future-of-work-with-microsoft-dataverse-for-teams-now-generally-available/

Differences noted for Power Apps for Teams. Specifically, cheaper or free but at this point limited.

June 2021 planned release for Dataverse connector in the Access roadmap.

Access versus Power Apps

Characteristic	Access	Power Apps
Application Type	Desktop (unless using a Remote Desktop Service)	Desktop, Mobile
Solution Type	File based	Web based
Requires internet connection	No (dependent on your data source of course)	Yes, although there is an offline option
Additional plan purchase required	No	No Unless you use a premium Connector
Available with a Microsoft 365 Business plan	Yes (except for Business Basic)	Yes for Power Apps for Teams (except for Apps version)
Simple applications can be created by a non IT user	Yes	Yes
Requires software installation for each use location	Yes (runtime is a free option)	Maybe (requires a client install on mobile devices)

Access versus Power Apps

Characteristic	Access	Power Apps
Display data	Yes	Yes
Add or modify data	Yes	Yes
Multi User	Yes (need to separate data into a back end and use separate front ends)	Yes
Can store its own data	Yes (see note above)	No (default in Teams is Microsoft Dataverse formerly CDS or Common Data Service)
Relational data	Yes	Yes
Size limit	2GB per database (file)	Power Apps for Teams 2GB Power Apps (1 10GB dependent on the plan type)
Wide variety of data types	Yes	Yes (Dataverse for Teams has more limitations)

Access versus Power Apps

Characteristic	Access	Power Apps
Can connect to outside data	Yes	Yes (some of the connectors are an additional cost)
Can leverage external process automation	No	Power Automate
Built in security	No (for ACCDB format, with The exception of db password)	Yes (based on Office 365 user security and policy configuration)
Report designer	Yes	No (reporting is typically through Power BI)
Responsive	No (but according to a response on a UserVoice request on this it is Planned for Forms)	Yes (not yet for Power Apps for Teams)
Backup	Yes (file based, just use copy)	Yes
Automated Backups	No (not built in but easy to implement)	Yes

Access versus Power Apps

Characteristic	Access	Power Apps
Restore	Yes (file based, just use copy)	Yes
Business logic	Yes (typically through VBA)	Yes (typically through formulas)
Import data	Yes	No (but can do through connectors)
Import application to new environment	Yes	Yes (not yet for Power Apps for Teams)
Export data	Yes	Yes for DataVerse (only through connectors at the moment for DataVerse for Teams)

Access versus Power Apps

Conclusion?

Access versus Power Apps

RESOURCES

Proof that Microsoft is planning to better integrate with Power Apps
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/roadmap?filters=Access

Join our Access Lunchtime User Group
https://accessusergroups.org/lunch/

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